Boston Latin School
Argo
The official newspaper of the Boston Latin School
Sept 2013

Extracurricular Fair Mini Issue

Dear Readers,

Welcome back to your one and only school newspaper, The Argo (abridged version)! W'e're going to start the year with the usual News, Forum, A&E, and Sports goodness. Like what you see? See the box below to learn how to join The Argo! Enjoy!

The Argo Staff

BLS Hosts Mayoral Forum

By Marcella Caruso, I
News Editor

17 John William Ward Public Service fellows who had been organizing the Boston Mayoral Forum at Boston Latin School (BLS) for over a month finally saw their plans come to fruition on September 17th.

These 17 BLS students—in conjunction with Mr. Kennelly, Pamela Julian of the League of Women Voters of Boston, BLS Alum '13 Steven Gingras and some Advanced Placement Government students—experienced firsthand the exciting, chaotic and fast-paced world of local politics. Rose Silverman (I), a Ward fellow and current senior reflected, "The forum deepened my appreciation for the political process. Not only do I feel more educated about each of the twelve candidates, but I also now feel like I hold a deeper stake in the outcome of this election." Silverman, who will be 18-years-old in time for the general election, is one of many BLS students who will have a say in choosing Mayor Menino's predecessor.

As many know, this is a packed race. With 12 candidates running in the primary election (the results of which will be publicized after this article goes to press), it can be difficult to keep all the candidates straight.

In many of the forums conducted throughout this election, one of the major concerns was voters' inability to distinguish eerily similar candidates. Taking that into consideration, this forum took a slightly different approach from the traditional "town hall" style forums (with all 12 candidates on stage vying for more time and attention). In this forum, candidates and attendees all met in the auditorium, as opening remarks were made and attendees were split into 12 groups. Each group was led to a different classroom, which candidates would visit for 10 to 12 minutes. Citizens had the opportunity to ask any candidate any question they wished. The topics varied from increasing diversity in the government to charter schools to even workers' rights. The audience members included teachers, students, parents, alumni and members of the Longwood area community.

One such forum guest, Emilio Vides-Curnen (II) said, "The interactive nature of the forum was an excellent way to get the student body involved in local politics. I had originally planned to leave early but stayed until the end just because I was very interested to see how the candidates compared with each other and how well they each answered our questions."

For Boston, this election is historic. September 24, 2013 will be the first Election Day in 20 years that Mayor Menino's name has not been on the ballot. For most, if not all students, Mayor Menino has been the only mayor they have ever known.

This election will also be significant for another important factor: diversity. Considering the six candidates of color, and the one woman candidate, there is a good chance Boston could elect its first mayor of color or maybe even its first female mayor.

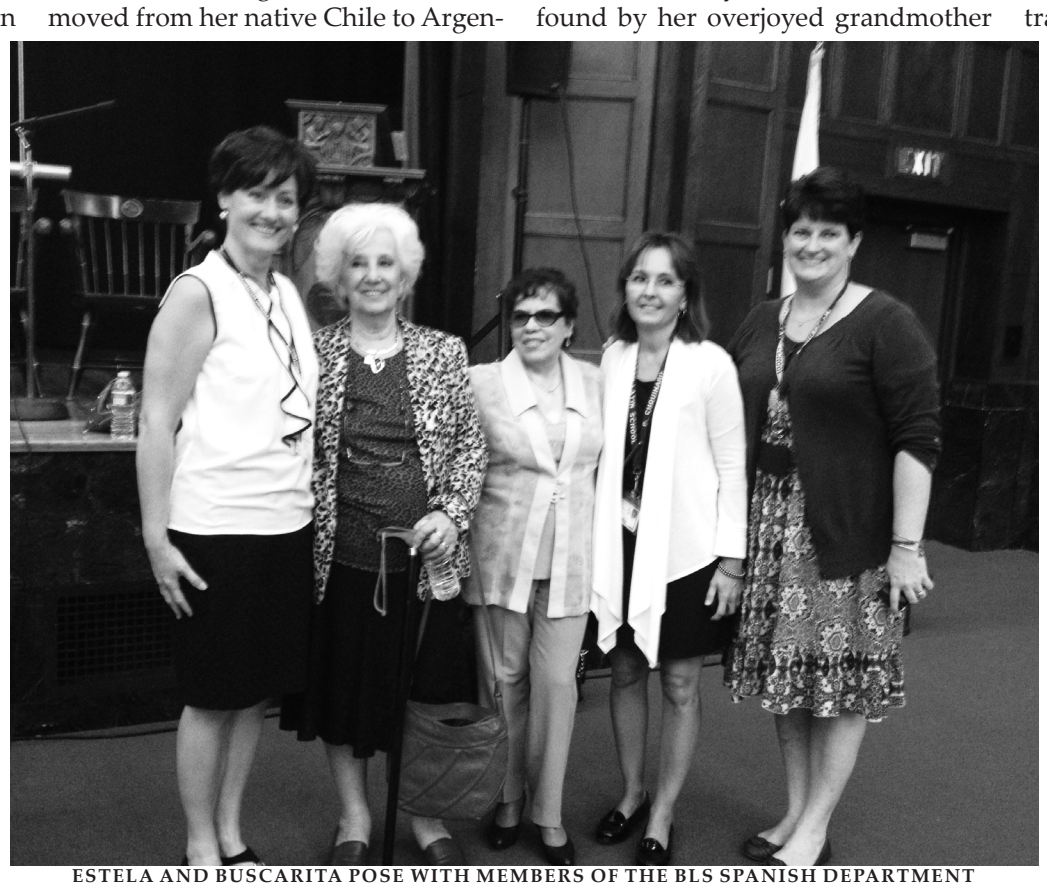
On September 17, students, parents, faculty, alumni and members of the Longwood community truly engaged in a pivotal election that will determine the state of our city for years to come.

The Grandmothers Who Never Gave Up

By Sylvie Stoloff, I
& Isabelle DeSisto, II
News Editor & Assisstant News Editor

The Spanish skills of Boston Latin School's Advanced Placement students were put to the test this past Friday when two members of the organization Abuelas de Plaza de Mayo honored us with a moving address in Spanish detailing their inspirational movement. Hailing from Argentina, these women spoke of their own harrowing experiences that have also plagued countries worldwide: the disappearance of innocent children under military dictatorships.

Estela Barnes de Carlotto is the president of the Abuelas (grandmothers), who seeks to locate los desaparecidos with a team of psychologists, forensic anthropologists and lawyers. Literally translated as "the missing," these are the children of political dissidents assassinated by the Argentinean dictatorship that were taken from their parents, given new identities and placed in the care of false families to be raised in accordance with government ideology. Estela's eldest daughter Laura, a university student, was abducted by members of the regime, taken to a clandestine detention center, tortured and killed after giving birth to a son who to this day remains missing. Laura and her child are among 30,000 desaparecidos and 500 nietos robados (stolen grandchildren). Through the diligence and compassion of people like Estela, 109 of these nietos have been found and reconnected with their biological families.


ESTELA AND BUSCARITA POSE WITH MEMBERS OF THE BLS SPANISH DEPARTMENT

Our second guest, Buscarita Roa, moved from her native Chile to Argentina with her son after a train accident left him handicapped and in need of better medical care. There he became involved with a political group, through which he met his girlfriend, and advocated for the rights of the disabled. This attracted the attention of the government, and the two were later kidnapped and tortured in a concentration camp. Their daughter became a nieta robada, but after a 22-year search, she was found by her overjoyed grandmother with the help of DNA testing from a comprehensive genetic bank kept by the Abuelas. They have also assembled a biographical archive of documents and photos collected by the families of the missing children, to ensure that as adults they will have access to details of their pasts.

After 36 years, the searches still continue, and the Abuelas' dedication to their cause is nothing short of extraordinary. Even though Buscarita's granddaughter has been found, she is still adamant about advocating for the right to one's own identity. "Nobody can change our identity," Estela says of the government's attempts to do so. And they have come a long way—Argentina has since celebrated 30 years of democracy. She comments that this dictatorship does not mark a history that they wanted, but she hopes it will be the last of its kind.

Despite the tragedies experienced by the Argentinean people, the presentations of our speakers were reassuringly optimistic. "There is no hate," asserted Estela, "only love." The Abuelas choose to focus on what they see as the most important takeaway: their story. "Lo que se olvida, se repite," she says. "That which is forgotten, is repeated." According to Estela, many people insist that these tragedies are "other people's stories," that they could not possibly happen to them. She maintains, however, that they are not the stories of just one person; they are the "stories of humanity," and they must be shared. This is why our speakers were especially excited to have the opportunity to connect with high school students, whom they hope, as "the present and the future," will continue to "celebrate peace."

Join the Argo!

Loved the mini-issue? Get involved!
If you didn't sign up at the Extracurricular Fair but would still like to contribute to the Argo, email one of our editors and join the Argo!

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Editors' Note

We're back, babies. After a summer free of the responsibility to bring the students of Boston Latin School stories for students, by students, Alice and Mike are back. See how we said both of our names so that it wouldn't be clear who wrote this? That's a little puzzle for you all. Anyway, back to the merciless, unbiased reporting that makes The Argo one of the quintessential Boston Latin School newspapers. What are we? A newspaper. That's a silly question. What do we do? Damn good journalism. Why? D ON'T ASK QUESTIONS YOU DON'T WANT THE ANSWER TO. And because we consider it our duty. Luckily for you, we've got an amazing team of editors, writers and reporters for each section to bring you the best news we're capable of.

You might be thinking to yourself, "Gee, Mike/Alice. This is a pretty lighthearted couple of paragraphs. I know the Argo for its exceptional gravitas!" Don't worry, young grasshopper. The jokes stop here. Metaphorically speaking, of course. We've got them peppered throughout the rest of our intro. We'll tell you when to stop expecting them.

This year, look forward to news from around your school, your city, and maybe even your country, the good ol' US of A. We would give you a preview, but we have no idea what's going to happen so we'll react accordingly. Hey, we don't even know who our next mayor's going to be! But you can bet we'll have students covering stories and answering questions you want to know about. Important questions like, "Where's the crossword in this issue?" It will be back. Next issue.

And now, to business. If you've read this far into our note, we'll bet you have the inspiration and dedication it takes to be on our team. Think you can write? Edit? Take photos? Use Adobe products/ InDesign? Well, the Argo wants you! You'll get to be more involved in your school community, expand your writing and grammar chops, and have a friendly glimpse into the wonderful world of journalism! Sixies, sophomores, seniors and everyone in between. So, eighth graders, freshmen and juniors too. There's no better time to start climbing the rungs of the Argo. You play your cards right, and you might just end up sharing our famous "Delivery Pizzas" on Final Friday (with mushrooms recently joining the party)!

Anyway, we're honored to be in charge of The Argo this year. Here's hoping we do it justice. And to everyone involved: we've got a crazy year in front of us. Let's do this. Okay, the jokes are done now. Read to your little heart's desire. Hap py 2013-2014 school year!

A Game of Politics

By Ming Ying, III & Jake Zhu, I
Forum Editors

Banner-wielding, sticker-touting and all fluttering towards a single objective that screams "attention," 12 mayoral candidates are groping for a spotlight in a race that will soon yield the new Mayor of Boston. Yet even as they approach voters from every conceivable angle, they still struggle to formulate political rhetoric that resonates with voters—a truly diverse crowd at the heart of Boston that ranges from college-bound students to wealthy businessmen to federally-dependent seniors. In the wake of such a truly broad spectrum of people, preferences and concerns, is there a single candidate that can find common ground with the majority of voters? Perhaps in 2013, there is no safe middle ground to tread, and gaining any advantage would come at the expense of taking greater risks.

In the upcoming election, it is not only risk-taking that matters; making the right moves is the key. Take Bill Walczak, Boston activist and mayoral candidate, as an example. His campaign at first glance comes across largely as a crusade against casinos. "Boston is better than a casino," proclaims one bold line of text at the cover of his website. "Mayoral candidates that oppose casinos? There is only one. Vote Bill Walczak," cries another advertisement on the Internet. Ultimately for Walczak, however, the controversy over the time-worn issue of casino gambling does not hold its ground as a prominent issue of debate in the city of Boston anymore, and thus will not garner him enough votes to shift the voting tides. The same problem plagues David Wyatt, the only Republican candidate in the race, who is running exclusively on his anti-abortion platform, which is only one of many controversies that the majority of voters have consigned to the wastebasket of years gone by.

If there is a candidate who can gain an upper hand in the upcoming election, he or she will do it by landing firmly—whether by sheer luck or by design—in the database of issues that reach out to the minds of the greatest number of voters. Of course, this is no easy task. It takes an extreme amount of digging through information, searching and incessant inquiring to develop a platform that has the goal not of appealing to all voters, but to just enough irresolute ones to gain a favorable advantage. Unfortunately, since some of the mayoral candidates currently do not seem to have the right grip on societal concerns, the cards of the game could be in anyone's hands.

Since we are residents of Boston and students of a Boston Public School, it is accurate to state that upholding educational standards and improving the school environment are among our main concerns. We are unique in that we see the city not from behind the lenses of big-government politicians, business men, special-interests groups or even ordinary working-class adults, yet our opinions and concerns bear as much meaning to the city as to the candidates themselves. After all, when we soon turn of age and are given the chance to reevaluate the winner in the reelection, we will be the judge of whether the promises on the education reform bandwagon actually come to life.

All in all, although many people strive to predict the mayoral race like it is a congressional race, their analysis is futile. As we see before us, the scope of elections is shifting and adjusting from relatively traditional ideas to contemporary areas of debate. Subjects such as abortion, gambling, even the legality of gay marriage—although nonetheless highly critical points—have yielded to a new generation of voters voicing concerns over housing affordability, promotion of workplace diversity and education reform. These topics (the former in particular) are no less prevalent for teenagers, and as teenagers ourselves, we worry about the availability of career opportunities, the quality of school lunches, people and places to seek out when stress or daily life simply overwhelms us. Thus, it is crucial that the new mayor addresses our concerns and takes action to make Boston a better place than ever before.

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2007 Honorable Mention Greater Boston High School Newspaper Competition Excellence in News Writing
2011 Honorable Mention Suffolk University High School Journalism Competition Excellence in Forum Writing

Boston Latin School *Argo*

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Petere Veritatem. The Argo strives, in accordance with the highest standards of journalism, to inform and inspire its readers, to provide a forum for constructive debate, and to foster understanding among all members of the Boston Latin School community.

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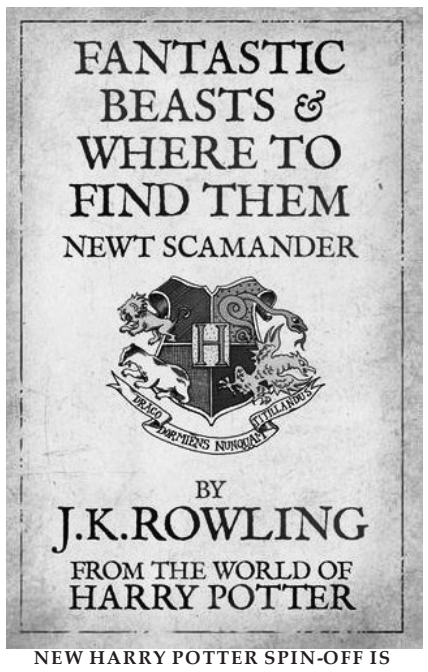
The World of Harry Potter Returns

BY GRACE MANN, I
A&E EDITOR



NEW HARRY POTTER SPIN-OFF IS COMING SOON

Like any average teen growing up in modern America, I start my day by logging on Facebook and scrolling down the endless newsfeed that stands before me. In my attempts to effortlessly pass the time in my life, however, I've come across something exciting: the news of a "new" Harry Potter. To my knowledge, the series had come to a close in 2011, but an ending doesn't mean that all the money-making opportunities have been depleted, right? At least that's how Warner Bros. sees it.

J.K Rowling, the award winning novelist most famously known for her writing of the Harry Potter series, is now making her debut as a screenwriter. Contrary to popular belief and to my own dismay, I found out that she is by no means making another movie entailing the tales and shenanigans of the trio of Harry Potter, Ronald Weasley and Hermoine Granger. Rowling is rather traveling back in time to a mystical time before the trio existed, back to a time whenthe magic all began.

In 2001, Rowling had released a book entitled Fantastic Beasts and Where to Find Them which served as an encyclopedia of sorts regarding the details of the magical world Harry and friends inhabit. This book is also referenced in the Harry Potter novels themselves, as it is a textbook Harry uses in his first years at Hogwarts during a class with Hagrid. Though the textbook is written by J.K Rowling, in the universe of Hogwarts the book is written by a magizoologist by the name of Newt Scamander. "Magizoology" is the term used in the Harry Potter world to reference the study of magical beasts and creatures.

Fantastic Beasts and Where to Find Them is the name of the screenplay that Rowling will be writing. It is said to take place 70 years prior to the events that occurred in Hogwarts with our favorite characters. Despite taking place several years before the events that occur in the Harry Potter series, Fantastic Beasts and Where to Find Them is not a prequel to the series, just an extension of the universe. So far what is k nown is that the movie is to depict the story and experiences of Newt Scamander, the "original" author.

Even more exciting news go to show that Rowling is said to be in a partnership for the production of a series. This means that we may see several installments featuring Newt Scamander (it makes you wonder if Newt really has so much to say, or if maybe box offices are just seeking to make a little more cash). There has also been talk of another feature film regarding the second extension book that Rowling made: Quidditch Through Ages. There are no Harry Potter fans who would find themselves in opposition to a feature-length film regarding the fantasy sport that has spread across the nation. With fans (and even some actors and actresses from previous Harry Potter films) excited, we patiently wait in anticipation for what action, excitement and adventure this new series of films will bring. We hope Rowling's script will be just as good as, if not better than, her novels.

MixFest Brings Music and Bostonians Together for Another Year

BY FRANCESCA VIOLICH, I
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

On September 14, thousands flocked to the Esplanade to attend Boston's MixFest, a free concert hosted by the radio station Mix 104.1. The event itself was held in the Hatch Shell, and with limited seating available, people began to line up at the two entrances as early as 9:00AM in order to be as close to the performers as possible. Eager to hear their favorite bands, these fans passed the hours until the concert enjoying free samples of coffee from Dunkin' Donuts, the official sponsor of MixFest 2013, visiting various sponsor stalls, or simply relaxing on the grass. Despite having significantly expanded the concert enclosure this year, the Hatch Shell seating was already filled by the start of the concert—latecomers gathered along Storrow Drive and across the lagoon.

THE CROWD AWAITING GAVIN DEGRAW'S PERFORMANCE AT MIX FEST 2013

This year's lineup starred Gavin DeGraw, Backstreet Boys and Icelandic hit band, Of Monsters and Men, as well as a special performance by Alex Preston, a local singer-songwriter who won the Fifteen Seconds of Fame contest sponsored by MixFest. As the chosen musician out of more than a hundred Boston singers, Preston had the opportunity to open the concert. He did not disappoint—his unique sound was a perfect fit for the musical taste of the gathered audience, and he proved himself to be an excellent guitar player, opening each of the three songs he performed with an acoustic riff.

Gavin DeGraw took the stage after Preston and performed several of his older songs, including popular hits "Not Over You" and "Chariot," as well as two new songs from his upcoming album. He drew both shrieks and smiles from the audience when he went into the crowds, giving high fives to fans and even state troopers before returning to the stage. DeGraw has performed at MixFest several times before, including last year, and assured audiences that he would try his best to return for the 2014 concert. Backstreet Boys, who performed next, had a particularly large following at MixFest, largely made up of fans who had missed their August concert at the Bank of American Pavilion and were excited to get another free chance to hear the band live. While their set was comparatively short, Backstreet Boys had a fantastic showing, complete with synchronized dancing, and ended with their international hit "I Want It That Way."

Although some of the crowds cleared out after Backstreet Boys left the stage, the majority of the audience stayed to watch the final group take the stage. Of Monsters and Men, an indie folk and pop band from Iceland, had come all the way from Reykjavik to play at MixFest 104.1, and treated the audience to an incredible performance. Lead singer Nanna Bryndís Hilmarsdóttir, dressed in black like the rest of her band, went through the most popular songs that Of Monsters and Men had produced, including "Dirty Paws" and "Mountain Sound." Ragnhildur Gunnarsdóttir, though simply a session player and not officially part of the band, played several excellent trumpet solos as well as singing backup vocals alongside the more prominent members of the band. Of Monsters and Men left the stage after their set was finished, only to return several minutes later for an encore, urged on by fans chanting, "One more song!" To conclude the concert, the band performed their most famous song, "Little Talks," which was a success both in Iceland and internationally, reaching the top spot on the Icelandic, Irish and American Alternative Song music charts. White confetti and spotlights added to the already festive scene, and Of Monsters and Men exited to roaring applause.

MixFest 2013 brought together thousands of people of all ages out on a bright Saturday afternoon to enjoy a day of fantastic performances and music for free, making it again an incredible success. The goodwill and appreciation for the present artists were tangible, and the variety in the lineup guaranteed that the audience would be exposed to new songs. The concert is a recurring event, so keep an eye out for the lineup of MixFest 2014—it will certainly have a high standard to live up to.

Spotlight
Marty O'Donnell

BY ANONYMOUS
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Cruising through the halls of BLS, there are always people who stand out. Whether it be due to vibrant hair color or style of clothing, there are always those who seem to "pop" more than the others. Marty O'Donnell most certainly "pops," but not in the way most would imagine.

If you've encountered Marty, you know exactly what I mean.

Marty is a tall figure with tame yet seemingly layered brown hair. He is most easily identifiable by his tall nature and quirky glasses. He likes to sport a signature black sweatshirt at times and is most often found wearing jeans of some sort. Even if you are unable to identify him based on this vague description, it's almost certain that at some point you'll encounter someone falling victim to one of his pokes in the hallway.

Anyone who has ever had an encounter with Marty O'Donnell will remember Marty O'Donnell. Whether the impact he leaves is positive or negative, the impact is there. Marty is an intelligent individual and an avid abuser of emotional manipulation, or as our generation would better define it, "trolling." Whether it comes to making people mad, confused or something in between, Marty always has a way to do it. Though sometimes he may purposefully be difficult to deal with at times, Marty is actually quite informative and opinionated. If you wish to engage in a heated discussion or simply partake in a friendly debate, Marty will without a doubt be remarkably verbal with his thoughts.

One of Marty's greatest assets is his sense of humor. To most it appears somewhat trivial and childish but Marty makes some of the most sophisticated references in his jokes. You'll discover references to YouTube videos, quotes from aged rap videos and more often than not, many references to The Lord of the Rings series, his favorite, written by J.J.R. Tolkien. To the naked eye Marty may not look it, but he is quite knowledgeable. If you have a spare moment and he is in the premises, perhaps ask him to perform a magic trick, as he knows several. Marty is also devious when it comes to card games. If you don't believe me, face him in a game of Spit. You'll regret it. Card games, however, are not the only things Marty is good at. Marty is a dedicated member of the video game community. He enjoys playing games on all kinds of mediums, whether it be a handheld system, console or computer game—he plays them all. He isn't what he'd call a "casual" gamer, quite the opposite really.

The next time you encounter Marty, don't be afraid to say hello. He may respond with the expected "hello" or a similar variant in return; just don't be surprised if you are greeted in a special way. He may even give you one of his self-appointed nicknames. And cover your sides and stomach because once acquainted, a poke in the hallway is a sufficient greeting in the miraculous mind of Marty O'Donnell

Spotlight
Ariadne Argyros

By Isabel DeLaura, I & Michaela Sargent, II
Contributing Writers

I often refer to Ariadne as Nani, and people give me odd looks. They don't know her by this nickname. Every time I hear someone ask "Who's Nani?" I am reminded of how lucky I am to call Nani my teammate, and more importantly, my friend.

When I first saw Nani at soccer tryouts, she was sitting off to the side, rocking a knee brace and looking very professional and intense. In fact, I thought she was a senior who was already on the team, and didn't need to try out because she was so good.

It turns out that she is that good. Even so, Nani's incredible athletic abilities have never stopped her from giving 110 percent of her effort on the field every single day. She lives, breathes, eats and preaches soccer and has the skills to show for it. There's a reason she has been killing it on varsity for four years. There's a reason she was voted captain. There's a reason the varsity girls' soccer record is the best it has been in years. Nani is simply the kind of player who can go out onto a field and completely change the course of the game.

At first, I was intimidated by Nani's impressive array of skills. I made sure my passes to her were perfect, so that this soccer goddess, Nani, wouldn't hate me. But after getting to know her a little better, I realize that Nani's intense outer shell comes from the passion she has for the game and for her team. I have never before met a player who throws so much of herself into every minute of the game, and who is so willing to sacrifice herself for the team.

I also enjoy Nan's company when we are not playing soccer. Some of our most frequent activities include blasting electronic dance music (EDM) inside her mom-vehicle, going on preseason picnics with the crew between double training sessions, exposing Nani's interactions with her many suitors and spending entire days at the Park School watching every single futsal game. So if you've never experienced Nani's road rage on the highway or her delicious pasta salad, there are still eight months for you to hop on that.

Nan, I have no doubt that you will go on to do great things with your life in college and beyond. And (classic Isabel) I believe in you! The team will miss your intensity and commitment. We will miss your angry rants and probably "red card-able" slide tackles. We will miss one of the best backs and backsides BLS soccer has ever had. And we will miss one of the sweetest, most caring people out there. Naniani, you are going to absolutely kill it at whatever school is lucky enough to have you, but before then, BLS has Bedford to crush and D13 has an indoor championship to win!

Argo
Boys Soccer: Kickin' It

By Alex Casseso, I & Owen Ward, I
Contributing Writers

As the start of a new school year ensues, the long awaited soccer season does as well. Despite the loss of eight seniors from last year, this year's varsity squad is arguably the best team the Boston Latin School soccer program has ever seen. Despite their slow start, the team is expecting to make the playoffs for the first time in millenniums. The team needs 18 points to make the tournament, and this goal is definitely attainable.

Seeing as this team is destined for greatness, there are obviously some quality players. Up first, we will look at the voice of reason on the team. An avid supporter of Karl Marx and a resident of Jamaica Plain, Cole Rainey-Slavick (I) is always there to preach his opinions, prove us wrong and spread his propaganda. Cole loves Macklemore and constantly jams out to "Same Love." Despite all of this, Cole is a brilliant attacker and playmaker on the field.

Next up, we've got the two star defenders. There's Captain Jake French (II), the unstoppable center back, and Joey "Tino" Tarantino (II), the legit beast. Recently, Jake has been spotted courting a member of the girls' soccer team. "Kake," the name given to the couple, has become a topic of conversation between the two teams, and has even been trending on Twitter. Now for Tino, he's big, Italian and an animal on and off the field. When these two studs aren't out with their women, they are both out on the pitch playing hard and stopping any attackers that are making their way toward our goal.

Speaking of our goal, it's time to discuss our tremendous goalkeepers. There's Pearse "Pear/Parsley/Parsnips" Martin (II) and Nathan "Anakin" Jewett-Wolf (II). These two are essential parts to the success of our team, since they protect the goal. The two goalkeepers are constantly fighting for playing time, because they are both really good. "Drill Sergeant Major" Pearse is always there to support the team and use his Army tactics to motivate us to win and play hard. Each game, Pearse recites his favorite quote: "If you can dodge bullets in heavy fire, you can save a ball." This really drives the team forward and motivates us.

Finally, the future of BLS soccer: the sophomores. They run the Dual County League (DCL) right now, mostly because a lot of them play on the best club team around: Hammer Futbol Club. Keep an eye on them when they are seniors, because they will be unstoppable. First up, we've got Richard "Takes Pride In Being the Only Asian Kid On the Team" Huang (III). Richard is extremely fast and his speed and moves make him deadly in the final third. Next up is Griffin "Sweet Boy" Burns (III). "Drake," as the team calls him, is always a quality player on the field. He is also a great player off the field, but alas, just like Drake, he is always being sweet to the ladies. Next up, the twins: double trouble, the dynamic duo, Brendan and Michael McIntosh (III). These two gremlins are insanely good, and they are some of the best players in the DCL. Like seriously, they are filthy. Also, there's Ulises Alvarez (III)—he's reckless and a threat when the ball is at his feet in the final third. We can't forget the solid defenders Peter "Dolce" Favorito (III) and Caswell Ellis (III) either. Sadly, Vlad Ventura (III) was unable to play this year, but he will be back next year to help lead the team to victory like last year. And finally, the moment you've all been waiting for: Nathan Baranksi (III). Baranski, in his free time, likes to write his own folk songs and play the lyre, and he does all this in costume. When it comes to soccer, his moves are unstoppable and magical, almost as if he is a magical nymph of some sort.

These are just some of the comical characters that make up the great BLS soccer team. Thank you for reading and getting to know the team. Please come out and support us at Millennium Park on October 17 at 4:00P.M. The whole team will be there, and we will definitely put on a gre at performance, especially with the long awaited return of Owen Ward (I). Go Wolfpack!

Girls' Swimming: Strength in Numbers

By Lucy Sergeant, I
Sports Editor

On August 26, while many students were frantically trying to finish summer reading and prepare for the beginning of the school year, the ladies of the BLS swim team made their way to the Murphy pool. For the next week the girls completed daily grueling workouts in order to be in shape for the season. After all, swimming is a sport that combines both physical strength and mental willpower. One must use every muscle in her body to push herself through the water while overriding her brain's plea for her to stop. Luckily, under the leadership of longtime coach, Bruce Conley, and captains, Sally Wu (I), Sylvie Stoloff (II) and Michaela Harrington (I), teammates receive constant pushing and reinforcement to try to the best of their ability.

After school every day when you see the swim team waiting for the bus outside the main entrance, you may ask yourself, "Is that a sports team or half the female population of BLS congregating on the steps?" While the latter is incorrect, it is pretty close to the large number the team has in its ranks. Every year a plethora of new memebers, both new and experienced swimmers, join the team. While in a standard six lane pool, a huge amount of swimmers can cause some overcrowding, so they learn to work hard and push themselves, no matter how many people are in their lane. The huge numbers exemplify how devoted everyone is to becoming better swimmers. Senior swimmer and master of cheering, Isabel Ridge-Creamer (I), attests, "It pushes us to be efficient and get the most out of our pool time." Everyone is there because they want to swim, and are willing to do so even if their lane is a little crowded. Sophie von Hunnius (I) comments that a huge team just means there are "more people to love" and, more importantly, "more people to laugh at me when I'm weird."

While the season has just started, BLS has already shown promise of future victories in two extremely close losses to Walpole and Newton North, both by a margin of less than ten points. Kate Della Barbra (III), Morgan Spaulding (II) and Monica Ovalles (II) all swam great times for the 100 backstroke. Michala Harrington (I) glided across the pool in the 100 butterfly. Sally "Woo" Wu (I) and Natalie "Fatalie" Fiorenzo (I) led the Wolfpack in breaststroke. Kate Yuan (III), Kristen Fields (II), Isabelle and Camille Desisto (II) and Nora Cameron (I) represented the team well in freestyle in both relays and individual events. As the season progresses many girls show potential for both individual and relay qualifications for sectionals and states.

SYLVIE STOLOFF (II) SHOWS OFF HER DIVING FORM

At the middle of both meets, BLS showed its dominance in one particular event: diving. Due wholly to the immense talent and dedication of Sylvie Stoloff (II), BLS always puts points on the board during diving. The team begins whispering her name, gradually growing to a full-out yell as she walks out to the end of the board before gracefully jumping, twisting and flipping through the air into the water. After placing sixth in the state last season,

Sylvie continues to dominate at all meets and proves why she is ranked so highly. Whatever this team may lack in a winning record, the girls make up for in creativity, originality and, most importantly, heart. At the end of last season and through this one they have even created their own original cheer to thank and congratulate the opposing team after every meet. They now use their original cheer, titled "Two Chains" by authors Lucy Sergeant (I) and Shannon Casey (I), at every meet, much to their own and every opposing team's amusement.

On meet days, the entire team shows up to school united in different dress- up days, such as the classic "black-outs" or "BLS spirit days." The rest of BLS should definitely watch out for some "white-outs" and "denim on denim on denim" days in the coming weeks. Camille Desisto (II) says, "Everyone supports each other no matter their ability and we all care about each other." Tori Cahill (I) comments on the team's unity: "There are definitely groups within the team, but overall, when we're all together, we're all together. We're like a really huge, 65-person family." Kristen Fields (II) states that the team is "not only growing as a swim team, but as a group of friends."